

MCAC New Member Bios

Elizabeth Garrison

Elizabeth joined So Others Might Eat (SOME) in 2017 and is responsible for SOME's continuous quality improvement program, clinical training, corporate compliance, program evaluation, privacy and data management. Elizabeth is passionate about ensuring that SOME is providing high quality services and meeting the needs of our clients. Prior to joining SOME, Elizabeth has worked extensively in DC community mental health services. Elizabeth served as the Chief Compliance Officer at Green Door Behavioral Health and as the Director of Compliance and Quality Improvement for Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Medstar Washington Hospital Center. Elizabeth is active with DC policy and practice issues that impact provision of services to vulnerable DC residents. Elizabeth is a former board member for the DC Behavioral Health Association and a licensed clinical social worker. Elizabeth is a Certified Healthcare Compliance professional.

Robert Hay, Jr

Robert Hay Jr., CAE, became executive vice president of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) in August 2018. In this role, he serves as the chief staff officer for the Society and is responsible for aligning its strategic priorities to best management practices. Hay was born at Providence Hospital and grew up in Naylor Gardens (Ward 7), where his mother's family has lived for decades. He has lived his entire life in the DC metropolitan area.

Prior to joining MSDC, Hay served as an account executive at PAI Management Corporation, an association management company. His responsibilities included serving as the Deputy Executive Director of the American College of Radiation Oncology (ACRO) and Executive Director of the American College of Medical Quality (ACMQ). Prior to serving at PAI, Mr. Hay served as the Executive Director for the Association of Government Relations Professionals (AGRP). Hay is a double graduate of The Catholic University of America, and currently he serves on the university's alumni association board of governors.

Justin Palmer

Justin Palmer is a skilled public policy and government affairs professional with over fourteen years of experience. He currently serves as the Vice President, Public Policy & External Affairs for the District of Columbia Hospital Association (DCHA). In this capacity, he is responsible for overseeing the Association's advocacy and policy efforts with the District of Columbia government and coordinating the efforts of its hospital members related to employment, licensure and other health policy initiatives. Additionally, Mr. Palmer oversees the Association's member and external communications efforts.

Robert Moffit

Mr. Robert Moffitt is a longtime DC resident, from Ward 7. He has a BS in experimental psychology and industrial engineering, a graduate background in operations research, and further graduate experience in molecular biology. He has a commitment to the District government being responsive to the needs of the community at large and is interested to comply with guidance from HIPAA while aligning itself with the needs of citizens.

Eric Scharf

Eric Scharf is the retired President of Kelsey Consulting, which focused on assisting nonprofit organizations with issues of business process improvement and governance issues. He has more than thirty years of experience in association management and a background in health policy and human rights advocacy. During his career he served as Executive Director of five professional and trade associations addressing issues in substance abuse addiction, maritime transportation, international trade facilitation, the nursing profession, and financial services.

Eric has a lived experience with depression; he is active in the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance National Capital Area Chapter and serves as Advocacy Advisor for the DBSA National Office. Additionally, he serves on the Board of Capital Clubhouse, a mental health clubhouse; Vice Chair of Center Global, a program serving LGBT asylum seekers in the Washington, DC area and recently stepped down as Vice President of both the Mt. Pleasant Library Friends and the Federation of Friends of the DC Library. A Washington, DC resident, Eric currently lives in Columbia Heights.

Katie Nicol

Katie Nicol is the Senior Manager of Public Benefits and Insurance Navigation at Whitman-Walker Health (WWH), a federally qualified health center serving Washington, DC's diverse urban community and a special focus on people living with HIV and the LGBTQ community. She has over 11 years of experience in public benefits eligibility, enrollment and outreach in the District, and has been the DC Health Link Assister program manager since its inception in 2013. Katie oversees the integration of the Insurance Navigation team - a team of 15 - into the medical team model, leads the program's advocacy efforts with local government agencies to identify and resolve enrollment issues, and collaborates between health care services and legal services to address any barriers to care due to payor issues. Katie spent her childhood in Guatemala and Southern California and is fluent in Spanish. She spent 7 years living in Louisiana where she was an intake coordinator for the Northwest Louisiana AIDS Research Center. These experiences combined with openly identifying as a queer woman, provide her a unique perspective of stigma and potential barriers to care in health care. Katie is active in advocacy of health reform implementation in the District, and access to health care for marginalized and vulnerable communities. She was part of the Medicaid Outreach Project with DHCF in 2013, a member of the National Coalition of Millennial Health through Young Invincibles, and served on the DC Health Benefit Exchange ACA Working Group in 2017 and 2018. Katie is a current participant of the Advisory Board Fellowship program, and was recently recognized as one of the 2019 "40 Under 40" Queer Women in Washington through the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs.